

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

770 L STREET, SUITE 1000
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 324-2726
(916) 324-5597 FAX
<http://www.cmac.ca.gov>

**CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**

State Capitol, Room 113
Sacramento, CA

Minutes of Meeting
November 6, 2008

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Cathie Bennett Warner
Michele Burton, M.P.H.
Wilma Chan
Marvin Kropke
Nancy McFadden

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Vicki Marti

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Nancy Hutchison, Department of Health Care Services
Randy Ward, Department of Finance

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT**CMAC STAFF PRESENT**

Paul Cerles
Tacia Carroll
Nathan Davis
Denise DeTrano
Holland Golec
Mark Klobberdanz
Katie Knudson
Jenny Morgan
Becky Swol
Mervin Tamai
Karen Thalhammer

I. Call to Order

The November 6, 2008 open session meeting of the California Medical Assistance Commission (CMAC) was called to order by Chair Bennett Warner. A quorum was present.

II. Approval of Minutes

The October 23, 2008 meeting minutes were approved, with one correction, as prepared by CMAC staff.

III. Executive Director's Report

Paul Cerles, Deputy Director and Supervising Negotiator, began his report by informing the Commissioners that Keith Berger, Executive Director, was on vacation, and he would be giving the Executive Director's report on Mr. Berger's behalf. Mr. Cerles said he is looking forward to Mr. Berger's return to the office next week.

Mr. Cerles indicated that the Governor has called a special session for the Legislature to address the State's on-going fiscal crisis as well as appointed a bipartisan commission of legislative and gubernatorial appointees to help modernize the State's revenue mechanisms to better reflect the current economy. CMAC staff will be monitoring these areas and will keep the Commissioners informed of any new developments.

Mr. Cerles announced, just as a reminder to everyone, that the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) open session presentation on the changes in seismic safety requirements for hospitals has been rescheduled for the November 20, 2008 CMAC meeting. Mr. Cerles is hopeful everyone can attend to hear their update on the status of the program.

Mr. Cerles said CMAC also invited a representative from the California Hospital Association (CHA) to be present to provide some comments on the seismic safety issues from the industry's perspective.

IV. Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Report

Nancy Hutchison, DHCS, informed CMAC that in response to a request from Dan Rabovsky, Principal Consultant to the Assembly Budget Committee, DHCS would be providing technical assistance to the committee that will draft amendments to the new statute relating to rate reductions for non-contract hospitals. She noted that this is to address the issue of the language that requires the rate reduction to apply in Health Facility Planning Areas (HFPAs) with three or more hospitals with licensed general acute care beds, but DHCS did not take into account how that new language would affect State owned and operated hospitals such as Veterans hospitals. The HFPAs that were affected were HFPA 403, HFPA 407 and HFPA 1016. Ms. Hutchison said that this will be discussed in the upcoming special session of the Legislature.

V. New Business/Public Comments/Adjournment

There being no new business and no comments from the public, Chair Bennett Warner recessed the open session. Chair Bennett Warner opened the closed session and, after closed session items were addressed, adjourned the closed session, at which time the Commission reconvened in open session. Chair Bennett Warner announced that the Commission had taken action on hospital contracts and amendments in closed session. The open session was then adjourned.